



Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Students,

I hope you and your families are well and adjusting to life at home. Our schools and teachers are working hard to keep learning going and are grateful for the many messages of support and thanks received. Over the Easter break we have teams of colleagues working to improve the level of support we are able to provide, through implementing on-line platforms that will enable teachers to monitor and feedback on pupils' work. I would also like to draw your attention to the resources available on the trust website www.wellswaymat.com that cover home learning, well-being and on-line safety; three very important topics at this time. Well done to all our pupils (and their families!) who are working hard at home.

Message from Malcolm Broad, Chair of Wellsway Multi Academy Trust Board

To All Parents & Carers

It goes without saying that we live in extraordinary and unprecedented times, a situation where no one is left unaffected in some way or other by the impact of the coronavirus outbreak.

We are all having to adapt to the crisis, including the WMAT Trustees who met remotely last week for the first time. But compared to the new ways of working that you are all having to adapt to, our meeting bears absolutely no comparison with the changes you are now making within your own families.

Your school staff and governors recognise the changes that you are having to make as a consequence of the current situation. A lot of work is going on behind the scenes developing work and creative ideas in supporting your children in their education whilst confined to home.

No one knows how long the lock down will last so we will all have to live through a period of uncertainty where things are likely to change, perhaps on a daily/weekly basis. Your headteacher/principal and the trust will keep you updated on a regular basis ensuring we keep you abreast of any changes affecting both you and your children. I am confident that together we can and will rise to the challenge and continue to act in the best interests of our schools, pupils and staff.

In the meantime, I hope that you and your family will remain safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Decision from Ofqual on how they will be awarding GCSE and A Level grades

We have, today, received some further information regarding the method that will be used to calculate GCSE and A Level grades. This has come from Ofqual, the government body that regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments.

We will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each subject for each student, based on what we know about their work and achievements:

- the grade we believe they were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- Within each subject, the order of students within school, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges.
- We will consider a range of things like classwork and homework; results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework that might have been done; and general progress during your course.

This information will allow Ofqual, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade could be different from the one we send to the exam board.

See the link below for the Ofqual letter to students:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

Each WMAT secondary school will also be writing to each student at the start of next week to give further information on this process and how it will work in their school.

Eligibility for Free School Meals

These are new and uncertain times and it is important that families receive as much support as possible to enable them to navigate through the challenges that we all face. If your situation has changed recently and you think you may be entitled to free school meals please follow the link below. It will direct you to the DfE free school meals eligibility website. From there you just need to type in your postcode and you will automatically be re-directed to your local authority's free school meals application page: The link is: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Easter Provision

Wellsway Multi Academy Trust is continuing with its child care provision for key workers and vulnerable pupils over the Easter holiday and bank holiday period, including throughout the Easter weekend itself for key workers. This will take place at four WMAT schools, covering each of the local authority's we work in. The children who attend will enjoy a mix of outdoor sports and classroom based art and craft activities. Many thanks to all the staff who are going in over the Easter holiday to make this happen.

Twisted Tales – Creative Writing Competition

The second WMAT competition has been set this week by The Meadows Primary School. It is open to all children and young people who attend a WMAT school. Follow the link to take part - [Twisted Tales writing competition](#)

Chandag Junior School's Easter egg activity

You might like to have a go at this activity set by Chandag Junior School. Use the template found here [Easter Egg Competition](#) to design your own Easter egg – anything goes! We would love to see the finished versions so please take a photo and email it to enquiries@wellswaymat.com

On behalf of all the staff at Wellsway Multi Academy Trust I would like to wish you all a safe and restful Easter holiday. We look forward to 'seeing' you all back on Monday 20th April to continue this new educational journey together.

Take care,



Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive

